

Books by Kevin Henkes A Selected Bibliography

NEW



Bird Lake Moon

Tr 978-0-06-147076-9 • \$15.99 (\$18.99)

Lb 978-0-06-147078-3 • \$16.89 (\$19.89)

Told in alternating voices, the story of two boys who spend the summer at Bird Lake,



Olive's Ocean

Tr 978-0-06-053543-8 • \$15.99 (\$19.99)

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CD 978-0-06-074814-2 • \$22.00 (\$27.95)

★ "[A] lovely, character-driven novel that explores . . . the changes and perplexities that haunt every child's growing-up process." —*ALA Booklist* (starred review)

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★ "Henkes captures young angst with respect and honesty." —*School Library Journal* (starred review)

• ALA Notable Children's Book • *School Library Journal* Best Book • *Publishers Weekly* Best Book • Notable Children's Trade Book in the Language Arts • Parents' Choice Silver Honor • Chicago Public Library's Best of the Best



Protecting Marie

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★ "Affirms the resiliency of the creative spirit and the transcending power of love." —*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

• *School Library Journal* Best Book • *Publishers Weekly* Best Book • *Child Magazine* Children's Book Award



Laura Dronek

About the Author

Kevin Henkes is the best-selling, award-winning author of many books for children, including the Caldecott Medal-winning *Kitten's First Full Moon* and the Caldecott Honor Book *Owen*. He also received the Newbery Honor for his novel *Olive's Ocean*. Kevin Henkes published his first book, the picture book *All Alone*, in 1981 and since then has published twenty-six additional picture books and ten novels. He lives with his family in Madison, Wisconsin.



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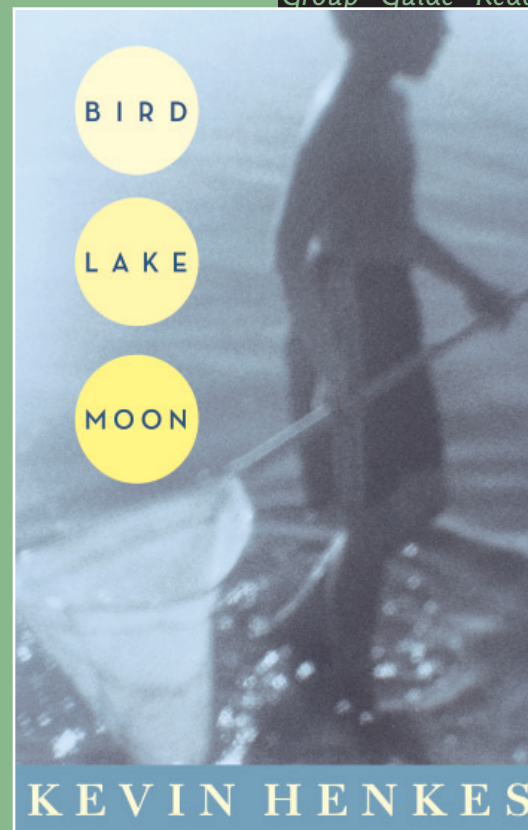
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Prices and availability subject to change.
Questions and activities prepared by Susan Geyer, Library Media Specialist,
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Printed in the USA 1/08 ISBN 978-0-06-156069-9

Reading Group Guide



Bird Lake Moon

By Kevin Henkes

Discussion Questions

1. When Mitch and his mother arrive at Bird Lake, Mitch realizes how much he misses his father and also how much he despises him for leaving. How is it possible for Mitch to feel both ways at the same time? How does Mitch come to terms with his confused feelings about his father?
2. After Mitch's father leaves, he feels like he is "nobody's child" (pages 5 and 8). Why does Mitch feel like his parents are no longer his parents? How does he finally come to terms with his parents' separation?
3. On page 11, Mitch asks himself, "Didn't it make sense that after something horrible happens, something better should follow?" Even though Mitch and his mother don't get the house next door to his grandparents' house, how do the events in the story substantiate Mitch's reasoning? What "something better" follows Mitch's "something horrible"?

- ## Extension Activities

Kevin Henkes writes so that his readers can see and feel the events that happen in his story. He aptly uses the writer's tools of personification: "Mitch's sadness grew; it became a rock inside him, pulling him down" (page 6); metaphor: Mitch's "mind was an aquarium" (page 40); and simile: "Papa Carl and Cherry took them in like mother bears welcoming home their long-lost cubs" (page 8). Discuss the definitions of these tools of expression and find additional examples of them in *Bird Lake Moon*. Discuss how the author's style adds dimension to the story.

Mitch uses the adjective “mad” to express how he feels and the noun “morass” to describe his situation. Make a list of other words beginning with the letter *M* that describe Mitch. Then make a list of *S* words that apply to Spencer. Extend this activity to other characters in the novel—or even to yourself—by brainstorming additional lists of words.

Bird Lake Moon is full of broken and taxed relationships. Mitch's mother feels betrayed by her husband. Spencer has been duped by Mitch. Mitch feels ignored and rejected by his grandparents. Spencer and Lolly have been neglected while their mother deals with Matty's death. Write a letter of apology and explanation from one character to another, asking for forgiveness and healing.

Bird Lake Moon contains no illustrations, but the author has painted pictures with words. Find a passage that describes the lake, the area around the lake, one of the two houses, or a character. Illustrate your selection using pen, pencil, pastels, crayons, watercolors, or collage.